

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ACDA-07 ISO-00 MC-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00

EB-07 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /082 W

-----071153Z 072301 /41

O R 071055Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7151

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION NATO

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, UR, US

SUBJECT: PRAVDA EDITORIAL ON DISARMAMENT

1. PRAVDA EDITORIAL MAY 7 ON "REAL MEASURES FOR DISARMAMENT" (ASSUME DEPARTMENT HAS FBIS TEXT) APPEARS TO BE SOVIET PREFATORY REMARKS FOR DISARMAMENT TALKS WITH US IN GENEVA IN COMING WEEKS. EDITORIAL IS ANOTHER SIGN THAT SOVIETS ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT THEIR IMAGE AS "VANGUARD" NATION IN DISARMAMENT IS BEING SERIOUSLY UNDERMINED BY THEIR CURRENT SALT POSITION. IN DEFENCING SOVIET HISTORICAL RECORD ON DISARMAMENT, EDITORIAL TAKES SEVERAL SWIPES AT US AND IN MORE VEILED FASHION AT NEW ADMINISTRATION. THERE IS NO MENTION OF SALT; NO NEW GROUND IS BROKEN ON ANY ISSUES; NO NEW PROPOSALS OR SUGGESTIONS FOR COMPROMISE ARE MADE. ONCE AGAIN IT IS UP TO THE US TO RESPOND TO SOVIET INITIATIVES.

2. THE LONG, UNSIGNED ARTICLE IS LARGELY DEVOTED TO HISTORICAL REVIEW OF SOVIET DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS AND TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TAKING CREDIT FOR VIRTUALLY EVERY MAJOR DISARMAMENT INITIATIVE SINCE WW II. AFTER CARPING REMARKS ABOUT WEAKENING OF SEABED ARMS CONTROL TREATY AND ENMOD CONVENTION (LATTER DUE TO "THE STAND TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES"), EDITORIAL USES CURRENT ISSUES OF CW AND CTB AS EXAMPLES OF SOVIET INITIATIVES DELAYED BY THOSE IN WEST WHO RAISE VERIFICATION ISSUES TO BLOCK PROGRESS. WESTERN POSITION IN MBFR IS

CASTIGATED AS ATTEMPT TO GAIN UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE DESPITE  
1972 US-USSR BASIC PRINCIPLES DECLARATION WHICH STATES SUCH  
ATTEMPTS ARE INCOMPATIBLE WITH PEACEFUL RELATIONS.

3. EDITORIAL CLOSES BY DECRYING "STATEMENTS OF A GENERALIZED  
NATURE IN FAVOR OF DISARMAMENT" WHICH ARE MADE "PARTICULARLY  
OFTEN IN WASHINGTON NOW" BY PEOPLE WHO CLAIM TO BE "SUPPORTERS  
OF RADICAL MEASURES" FOR DISARMAMENT. BUT, SAYS PRAVDA, "THE  
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT JUST AS OTHER GOVERNMENTS" HAS BEFORE IT  
SOVIET PROPOSALS WHICH THE USSR IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS. SINCE  
"OBJECTIVE POLITICAL AND MATERIAL CONDITIONS" FOR ENDING THE  
ARMS RACE EXIST, IT STATES, NOW IS TIME FOR "MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE  
SOLUTIONS NOT IN WORDS, BUT IN DEEDS."

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
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